



## Housing Services e-newsletter August 2019

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### Welcome to the Housing Services e-newsletter

#### Changes to Universal Credit

If you are in a mixed age couple where one of you is over pension age you could see a big drop in your [benefit](#) payments. This is because you can no longer both claim Pension Credit and will have to claim [Universal Credit](#) (UC) instead (which is paid at a lower rate). And if you have any spare bedrooms at home your benefit payment will be reduced even further. Your income could potentially be cut in half.

If you are already getting Pension Credit or pension-age Housing Benefit you won't be affected while you remain entitled to either benefit, but you will need to make a new claim for UC if your circumstances change. If you would like to claim Pension Credit please contact the [Pension Services](#) on 0800 99 1234.

If you are worried about how these changes affect you please contact our Money and Benefits advice service on 01962 848 332.

#### Help us stamp out tenancy fraud

With affordable housing in such short supply we need to make sure our properties house those people in genuine need. Please help us beat the cheats and tell us if you suspect anything suspicious in your neighbourhood:

- **Unlawful subletting** – when a tenant lets out their council home for a profit. Do any of your neighbours pay rent to an individual rather than to us?

- **Wrongly claimed succession** – when someone tries to take over or succeed to the tenancy illegally. Do you know someone who falsely claimed they lived with a tenant before he/she died?
- **Deception** – obtaining a council home by giving false information. Do you know someone who lied on their application to attract more points, or who rents property elsewhere?

Call us in strictest confidence on 01962 848 197 or email [housingtenancy@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:housingtenancy@winchester.gov.uk)



## Award winning Chesil Lodge

Residents at [Chesil Lodge](#) our newest Extra Care Housing Scheme already know that it's a special place to live, but recently the building has won a top award!

Chesil Lodge was named the “Best Inclusive Building” in the South East, at the LABC regional building excellence awards (and will go forward to the national finals in November). The accolade is in recognition of the way the scheme was designed to create a real sense of community and enable residents with varying care needs to live independently knowing help is on hand when needed. As well as a communal lounge hosting regular social activities, Chesil Lodge also boasts a terrific roof terrace, landscaped garden, hairdressing salon and café.

As well as scooping ‘best inclusive building’, Chesil Lodge was also a finalist in the Best Affordable Housing Scheme and Best Public Service Building categories, proving it really is a unique and innovative new housing development.

### New homes for Winchester

With council housing in such huge demand, we're busy developing more, quality [affordable homes](#) across the district.

Work has started on site at The Valley in Stanmore to provide 77 new homes comprising a mix of flats, family houses and a three bedroom bungalow.



Over at Mayles Lane in Knowle we have three separate sites. Totsome Cottages, a pair of semi-detached houses have been finished. The properties are available for shared ownership and one new owner is already settling in!



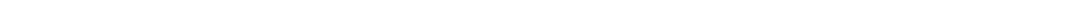
At Dean Copse Cottages, a terrace of five new affordable rented homes, work is almost finished. The new properties will be advertised through the housing register – [Hampshire Home Choice](#)

And building work is continuing at Knowle Halt Lodge to provide six new flats. These one-bedroom properties will be available for affordable rent when they are completed in December.



## **Access our services at the touch of a button**

You can now pay your rent, request a repair and update your details. Simply click on the my Council House logo) link on the home page of our website. This is a quick and 24/7 service to use.



## Latest News

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